

Quick Read

Tom Hanks discharged from hospital after quarantine without wife Rita Wilson

SYDNEY: Tom Hanks has been discharged from the Australian hospital where he was in isolation since testing positive for the coronavirus last week, but his wife Rita Wilson remains hospitalised, health officials said Tuesday. The multiple Oscar-winning actor was on the Gold Coast near Brisbane for pre-production work on an Elvis Presley biopic directed by Australian Baz Luhrmann when he and Wilson, both 63, contracted the virus. Wilson, who is an actress and a singer-songwriter, had given concerts in Sydney and Brisbane before testing positive for COVID-19 and Australian authorities have been tracking the couple's contacts to identify any other people who may have been infected. Australia has so far confirmed nearly 400 cases of coronavirus, with five deaths from the disease. The couple have posted to social media about their run-in with COVID-19, thanking their Australian carers and urging their fans to follow the advice of experts on avoiding the disease. Hanks was believed to have returned to the penthouse apartment in the Gold Coast where the couple had been staying while he worked on the Luhrmann film, in which he was due to portray Elvis' long-time manager, Colonel Tom Parker. —AFP

Fashion's biggest night folds: Met gala 'postponed indefinitely' due to COVID-19

SINGAPORE: The Metropolitan Museum of Art announced that the annual Met gala has been postponed indefinitely. The annual event often referred to as fashion's biggest night out, hosted by Vogue's Anna Wintour, was scheduled to take place on May 4. The celebrity-filled fundraiser for The Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art has been staged on the first Monday in May, without fail, since 2005. This year's exhibition, themed About Time: Fashion And Duration, is sponsored by Louis Vuitton. Last Thursday, the Met also announced it was closing "until further notice" after two employees showed symptoms of the virus. According to Vogue, an internal email was sent to staff at the Met on Mar 16, announcing that the museum "will remain closed through Saturday, April 4". "Due to the unavoidable and responsible decision by the Metropolitan Museum to close its doors, About Time, and the opening night gala, will be postponed to a later date," wrote Wintour on Vogue.com. The Vogue editor-in-chief took the opportunity to weigh in on the developing COVID-19 situation, and the upcoming presidential elections in the US. "Like everyone else, I have been experiencing this COVID-19 crisis as a series of hurtling developments, where one never knows quite what each new day will bring. Through it all one fact, however, remains stubbornly unchanged: President Trump, I, like so many of us, have been appalled by how he has responded to the pandemic — the optimistic and fact-free assurances that all will be fine, the chaotic implementation of travel bans and claims about a 'foreign virus,' the narcissistic ease with which he has passed blame to others, his dishonesty with the American people, and worst of all, his shocking lack of empathy and compassion for those who are suffering and fearful," wrote Wintour on Vogue.com. —AFP

Italy reports 349 new coronavirus deaths, taking total to over 2,000

ROME: Italy reported 349 new deaths from the novel coronavirus, taking its total since last month to 2,158, the most after China. The number of official COVID-19 fatalities has more than doubled since Thursday, when Italy's toll topped 1,000 for the first time. Italy now has 27,980 infections, compared to 15,113 four days ago. It has reported more than 700 deaths in two days.

Among specific regions, the overwhelming majority of the fatalities remained largely confined to northern regions, where the virus first started spreading around cities such as Milan. The Italian financial capital's Lombardy region recorded 1,420 deaths, of 66 per cent of Italy's total - about the same share it has had throughout the crisis. But the neighbouring Piedmont region around Turin, which is home to the Italian auto industry, has seen its number of deaths and infections nearly double in two days.

Piedmont reported 111 deaths and 1,516 infections on Monday, compared to 59 deaths and 873 infections on Saturday. The Lazio region around Rome has recorded 19 deaths and 523 infections.

Australia considers tougher movement restrictions to combat COVID-19

SYDNEY: Australia is considering tougher restrictions on public gatherings to slow the spread of the coronavirus as the Sydney Opera House closed its doors, national airline Qantas slashed its international flight capacity and courts suspended hearings. Prime Minister Scott Morrison will meet with the newly formed national cabinet, an emergency response team that includes state leaders and senior medical officials, by video link later on Tuesday (Mar 17) amid concerns the virus spread has picked up pace.

Several state leaders are pushing for a ban on social gatherings to extend to any event with more than 100 people, an order that would be much tighter than the 500 person maximum announced by the government on Monday. Morrison also announced on Monday that anyone arriving in Australia from overseas would be required to self-isolate for 14 days, but he stopped short of taking tougher measures like closing schools or imposing curfews.

Compared to other countries, Australia has so far experienced relatively low exposure to the coronavirus, with around 400 cases and five deaths. However, officials are growing increasingly concerned about exponential growth in the number of cases. New South Wales, the country's most populous state, on

Tuesday recorded its highest one-day rise in the number of infections so far.

Among the latest event cancellations were Australian Fashion Week, the industry's premier event, music festival Splendour in the Grass, all Cricket Australia matches and the World Surf League. The High Court of Australia suspended sittings. Several states and territories cancelled ceremonies and marches planned for Anzac Day in April, a national day of remembrance for Australians and New Zealanders who served during war time, which is a major event on the country's cultural calendar. Tourism Minister Simon Birmingham said the government planned to do "everything we possibly can" to help tourism businesses and left open the possibility of a bailout for Qantas Airways Ltd and rival Virgin Australia Holdings.

Qantas said on Tuesday it was cutting international capacity by around 90 per cent until at least the end of May. Virgin announced deep capacity cuts last week. "We will recover," Birmingham said. "We will come out of the coronavirus and we have to make sure that we have our tour operators, our tour attractions, all of our critical tourism infrastructure and businesses able to step up and be part of that recovery as quickly as possible so that we get people back into jobs and we get funds flowing back through our economy." The tourism sector accounts for more than 3 per cent of Australia's A\$1.95 trillion (US\$1.19 trillion) economy and global travel restrictions are expected to put a major dent in the average 9 million foreigners who visit the country annually.

STIMULUS PACKAGES: Parliament will sit next week to pass a proposed A\$17.6 billion stimulus package, but the number of elected officials returning to Canberra for sessions in the house will be cut by 40 per cent to reduce the chances of spreading the virus. The Reserve Bank of Australia, which earlier this month cut interest rates to a historic low, has also promised extra support. The central bank said on Monday it will unveil new measures on Thursday, as it as it pumped more liquidity into the system. Speculation is rife Thursday's announcement would include an out-of-cycle cut to the RBA's cash rate to 0.25 per cent together with unconventional policy measures to ensure financial conditions remain easy.

Coronavirus kills senior cleric as Iran toll hits 853

TEHRAN: The novel coronavirus killed a



top Iranian cleric the Islamic republic said as it reported yet another record high single-day death toll in one of the world's worst-hit countries. The latest 129 deaths brought the overall toll to 853 fatalities among nearly 15,000 infections since Feb 19, when the government announced Iran's first cases of the COVID-19 disease. "Our plea is that everyone take this virus seriously and in no way attempt to travel to any province," health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said. The disease has

now killed at least 12 Iranian politicians and officials, both sitting and former, and infected 13 more who have either been quarantined or are being treated. The latest was Ayatollah Hashem Bathayi Golpayegani, a member of the Assembly of Experts - an 88-strong body of clerics that appoints and monitors the country's supreme leader. The ayatollah, who was 78, died two days after testing positive for the disease and being hospitalised, state news agency IRNA reported. —Agencies

Trump and US states ramp up drive to slow spread of coronavirus

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK: The White House, under pressure to escalate national action to combat the coronavirus, urged Americans on to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people and called for closing bars, restaurants and other venues in states where local virus transmission exists. But President Donald Trump refrained from ordering sweeping public quarantines, lockdowns or curfews for the time being, even as some state and local authorities independently imposed mandatory restrictions on eateries, movie theaters and other places of leisure in a bid to contain the respiratory virus. "We're recommending things," Trump told a White House news conference in issuing new coronavirus guidelines. "We haven't gone to that step yet" of ordering a lockdown. "That could happen, but we haven't gone there yet."

ally unnecessary. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said on Twitter his administration was ordering polls closed on Tuesday in defiance of a state court ruling to the contrary. The number of known coronavirus infections and deaths in the United States has paled in comparison with hot spots of the global pandemic, such as China, Italy or Iran. But the tally of confirmed US cases has multiplied quickly over the past few weeks, surpassing 4,600 and prompting fears American hospitals might soon be overwhelmed, as Italian medical centers have been strained to the breaking point. At least 83 people in the United States had died of the virus, as of Monday, according to Johns Hopkins University and public health agencies, with the hardest-hit state, Washington, accounting for the bulk of the fatalities, including six more announced on Monday. Dr Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said health officials were relying on members of the millennial generation - those in their 20s

to 40s, and representing the largest living adult cohort - to alter their social behavior for the good of the public. Millennials, she said, are "the ones that are out and about, and they're the most likely to be in social gatherings, and they're the most likely to be the least symptomatic" even if they are unwittingly infected and contagious. Birx told the briefing. Release of the latest 15-day plan for slowing the spread of the virus came as state and local government officials pleaded with the Trump administration to mount a coordinated response to the pandemic, as millions of workers and students were already hunkering down at home. Besides recommendations to limit the size of gatherings and shut down public places in states where community spread of the virus is evident, Birx said one of the most important measures was for people who are sick to stay home. "If everybody in America does what we ask for over the next 15 days, we will see a dramatic difference," Birx said. The guidelines also call for entire

Is the UK's herd immunity strategy to combat COVID-19 worth pursuing?

CANTERBURY: The UK government recently enacted its second phase of response to the COVID-19 pandemic: "Delay". According to ITV journalist Robert Peston, the government's strategy to minimise the impact of COVID-19 "is to allow the virus to pass through the entire population so that people acquire herd immunity, but at a much delayed speed". This is so that those who suffer the most acute symptoms are able to receive the necessary medical support without overwhelming the National Health Service (NHS) with cases. At face value, this seems like a sound strategy, but what exactly is herd immunity and can it be used to combat COVID-19? HOW HERD IMMUNITY WORKS: Our bodies fight infectious diseases through the actions of our immune systems. When we recover, we often retain an immunological memory of the disease that enables us to fight off that same disease in the future. This is how vaccines work, creating this immune memory without requiring getting sick with the disease. If you have a new disease, such as COVID-19, that we don't have a vaccine for and no one in the country has ever been infected with, the disease will spread through the population.

But if enough people develop an immune memory, then the disease will stop spreading, even if some of the population is not immune. This is herd immunity, and it is a very effective way to protect the whole of a population against an infectious disease. But herd immunity is typically only viewed as a preventive strategy in vaccination programmes. If we don't have a vaccine - as we don't for COVID-19 - achieving herd immunity would require a significant proportion of the population to be infected and recover from COVID-19. So what would this mean for the spread of the disease in the UK? The percentage of the population that needs to be immune to enable herd immunity depends on how transmissible a disease is. This is measured by the term R0, which is how many new infections each case will generate. For COVID-19, the R0 is estimated to be 3.28, though studies are still ongoing and this number will probably change. This means that for herd immunity, about 70 per cent of the UK population would need to be immune to COVID-19. Achieving herd immunity would require well over 47 million people to be infected in the UK. Current estimates are that COVID-19 has a 2.3 per cent case-fatality rate and a 19 per cent rate

of severe disease. This means that achieving herd immunity to COVID-19 in the UK could result in the deaths of more a million people with a further 8 million severe infections requiring critical care. DELAY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY: However, it is not clear how much of this discussion of herd immunity - reportedly proposed by David Halpern, chief executive of the Behavioural Insights Team, and later blogged about by Robert Peston - shapes government policy. Also, the concept as discussed is not simply to let the disease run its course through the population, but to slow its spread and protect those most vulnerable from severe disease. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is a promising strategy, especially when combined with enhanced measures to protect the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. By slowing the spread of the disease, the NHS might have more time to prepare, we might be able to develop treatments or vaccines and we will be closer to the summer when we have lower incidences of other diseases that burden the NHS, such as the flu. A delay strategy when combined with surveillance and containment, as recommended by the WHO, could be effective in combating the spread of COVID-19. —

<p>COURT NOTICE</p> <p>In the court of Sana Ehsan-ur-Rehman Civil Judge, Family Court, Lahore, Pakistan</p> <p>Suit for recovery of maintenance allowance, gold ornaments etc. Case No 1579/FC of 2019.</p> <p>Title Amina Sabir Malik etc VS Muhammad Yawar Khan etc Notice to Muhammad Yawar Khan S/O Ikraam Khan, Ikraam Khan father of Muhammad Yawar, Mst Nighat W/O Ikraam, Mst Nadia D/O Muhammad Ikraam residents of 81-C, Phase-I, DHA, Lahore.</p> <p>Presently living in Engelschholm 46, Hoofddorp 2133 AH Noordholland, Netherlands.</p> <p>The court has called you again and again, but the implementation seems difficult, therefore this ad is being issued for you to appear in this court on 14-04-2020 at 9:00 am yourself or through your lawyer. Otherwise the action would be taken against you and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Shamim Nazli alias Baby W/O Mohammad Ashraf Javed, resident of H, No 43/Y Tariq Bin Ziyad Colony Sahiwal, allottee No 67/Z road, width area 5.14 marla Scheme No 3 Sahiwal has appointed Malik Mohammad Arshad S/o Din Mohammad, resident of H, No 13-A, No 1 Ramay Town Post office Fared Town, Sahiwal as her attorney, registered No 625/4 on 15-08-2003 from the Sub Registrar, Sahiwal, who wants to transfer plot to Mst Ramazan Bibi W/O Mohammad Arshad Faridi Awan, R/O H, No 13-A No 1 Ramay Town, post office Farid Town, Township, Sahiwal.</p> <p>If any has any objection, he or she should reach undersigned within 15 days, and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted.</p> <p>Deputy Director/ Secretary District Housing Com-</p>	<p>CORRECTION OF FATHER</p> <p>I Danish Ali S/O Muhammad Mukhtar have been Passed the secondary school certificate (10th Class) annual examination 2019 under roll number 170382 and form board if intermediate and secondary education Sahiwal. My Father's correct name is Muhammad Mukhtar, whereas on my certificate my name has been mentioned Muhammad Ameen, which is incorrect I want to get change of my name Muhammad Ameen to Muhammad Mukhtar. So correct the board record accordingly.</p> <p>Danish Ali S/O Muhammad Mukhtar Resident of Chak No 57/E.B Tehsil Arifwala District Pakpattan.</p>	<p>COURT NOTICE</p> <p>In the court of Adnan Safdar, Family Judge, Zafarwal</p> <p>Suit for Declaration Ishrat Bibi vs Saddam Hussain</p> <p>Notice to Saddam Hussain s/o Muhammad Rafiq, caste Jat, resident of Nawab Chak, near Waryam Tehsil Zafarwal. You are directed to appear in the court on 25-03-2020 at 9:00am, otherwise one-sided proceeding would be conducted and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted.</p> <p>This ad is being issued by this court with its stamp and signature.</p>
<p>COURT NOTICE</p> <p>In the court of Talat Javed, Civil Judge, Pasrur</p> <p>Suit for Declaration Abid Hussain vs Ansar Sohail, etc</p> <p>Notice to Ghazanfar Ali s/o Nawab Din, caste barbar, resident of Darma Zaidka Tehsil Pasrur.</p> <p>You are directed to appear in the court on 19-03-2020 at 9:00am, otherwise one-sided proceeding would be conducted and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted.</p> <p>This ad is being issued by this court with its stamp and signature.</p>			

Capital Development Authority (E&M) Sector Development, CDA

CORRIGENDUM

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT PARK ENCLAVE PHASE-1 & 2, ISLAMABAD

Reference advertisement No. PID(I)4902/19 published on dated 01.03.2020 in various daily newspapers and uploaded on CDA & PPRA website has following amendments.

FOR A/S No.9

Technical & Financial Proposals submission and opening date on 19.03.2020 at 12:00 PM and opened at 12:30 PM.

READ:

- i. Closing date to the purchase of RFP documents is 01st April, 2020.
- ii. Technical & Financial Proposals submission and opening date on 07.04.2020 at 12:00 PM and opened at 12:30 PM.
- iii. Earnest money amounting to Rs. 250,000/- (Rupees Two hundred fifty thousand only) in the shape of call deposit receipt (CDR), Bank Draft, Pay Order from the schedule bank of Pakistan in favor of Dy. Director Sector Development (E&M), CDA must be attached with Technical Proposal.

The other terms and conditions of advertisement will remain the same.

DIRECTOR
Sector Development E&M, CDA
Art & Craft Village near Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad
Cell No. 0300-9549843, 0334-5505857

US begins first human trial of virus vaccine

WASHINGTON: The first human trial to evaluate a candidate vaccine against the new coronavirus has begun in Seattle, US health officials said raising hopes in the global fight against the disease. But it may be another year to 18 months before it becomes available, once it has passed more trial phases to prove it works and is safe. The vaccine is called mRNA-1273 and was developed by US National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists and collaborators at biotechnology company Moderna, which is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "The open-label trial will enroll 45 healthy adult volunteers ages 18 to 55 years over approximately 6 weeks," the NIH said. "The first participant received the investigational vaccine today." There are currently no approved. —AFP